Suggested Opening Song: We Come to Your Feast, #226

We are God's. In today's Gospel, Jesus prays to the Father while he sits with his disciples, telling the Father that we belong to God. The Father gave the Son to us to redeem us—which Jesus is about to do when he makes this prayer—but the Father has also given us to the Son. We are connected to the Son of God as gifts of the Father. As God's gifts, we gather here together on the Lord's Day to worship and to pray, as the apostles did after Jesus was taken up to heaven. Let us pray that we come to recognize that we are all God's gifts, given by God to be given eternal life by Christ Jesus.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 22
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow as we say*) ***and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*** **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Introductory Rite:
Greeting:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 8
Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Opening Prayer:
Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord, so that we, who believe that the Savior of the human race is with you in your glory, may experience, as he promised, until the end of the world, his abiding presence among us.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:
First Reading p. 216
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles *Acts 1:12-14*

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 27:1, 4 7-8*

R/. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.
R/. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? **R/.**

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek: To dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD and contemplate his temple. **R/.**

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me.
Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks. **R/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter *1 Peter 4:13-16*

Beloved: Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer. But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel *John 17:1-11A*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reflection on the Word:

- When the New Testament refers to Jesus' "brothers," they are not speaking of brothers in the sense of siblings who share the same parents. In fact, recall that when Jesus asks about his brothers, he says that whoever does the will of the Father is his brother and his sister. In that context, we can read the last sentence of this passage from Acts to mean that along with the Eleven, the Blessed Mother, and other women, there are others who have chosen to follow God's will. This is now what we are called to do. When we pray, we seek to better discern God's will so that we may follow it as brothers and sisters of the Lord.

- On the night before he died, gathered around the table with his disciples, Jesus prayed that he might give eternal life to all those the Father gave him, that is, to all people. He described eternal life as true knowledge of God the Father and God the Son. This is his promise to us now. We prayed in the responsorial psalm that the one thing we seek is "to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of [our] life" (Psalm 27:4). When that time comes, God will be wholly revealed to us. Until then, we pray that we may come to know God more fully so that we may love God with all our heart, strength, mind, and being. Then we can more fully love him in ourselves and in our neighbor.

- When we pray, we hope to become increasingly conscious of our union with God, who is always with us. Let us not forget that the Holy Spirit, whose coming we will celebrate next Sunday, remains with us forever. Created in the image of God, we are united with God and one another as one single family of billions across space and time. Prayer reminds us of our relationship to God, as the one we can turn to in need, in thanksgiving, in praise, and with remorse. As the disciples turned to prayer when they could no longer speak with the Lord in the flesh, so too we turn to prayer to speak to God. Prayer lifts our hearts and minds to God.

Question of the Week
How have I gotten to know God better through prayer? Will I take the time each day this week to note how prayer has changed or affected me?

Prayer of the Faithful:
We are God's, and as God's children we call to mind the needs of our brothers and sisters and offer them to God in prayer.

- For the Church, that we may follow the example of the Blessed Mother and the first disciples and devote ourselves with one accord to prayer, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For the leaders of our country, that they may provide a model for the rest of the world by giving everyone the freedom to worship and pray as they desire, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For journalists worldwide, that they may pursue the truth and report it honestly, and for those in their number who are imprisoned, that they may be freed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For immigrants and refugees in the United States and all over the world, that they may be given an opportunity to rebuild their lives in their new homes, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For our community of faith, that we may devote ourselves with one accord to spending time with God in prayer, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of eternal glory, we are your gift to your Son, eager to give you glory through our words and actions. Hear the prayers we make and grant our petitions in accord with your holy will through the One you gift to us, Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 54
Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:
The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:
Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:
Hear us, O God our Savior, and grant us confidence, that through these sacred mysteries there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church what has already come to pass in Christ her Head.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Concluding Rite:
Final Blessing:
May the Lord bless us, ✠ protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested Closing Song: They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love, #245